

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-43. (canceled)

44. (currently amended) A compound comprising a plurality of nucleosides linked by covalent linkages in a sequence wherein:

said nucleosides are selected from  $\alpha$ -nucleosides, 2'-deoxy-erythro-pentofuranosyl  $\beta$ -nucleosides, and 4'-thionucleosides;

said linkages are charged 3'-5' phosphorous linkages; and

said sequence of linked nucleosides is divided into at least two regions,

wherein:

a first of said regions includes ~~said~~ a plurality of consecutive  $\alpha$ -nucleosides linked by charged 3'-5' phosphorous linkages, or ~~said~~ a plurality of consecutive 4'-thionucleosides linked by charged 3'-5' phosphorous linkages; and

a second of said regions includes ~~said~~ at least 5 consecutive 2'-deoxy-erythro-pentofuranosyl  $\beta$ -nucleosides linked by charged 3'-5' phosphorous linkages.

45-68. (canceled)

69. (new) The compound of claim 44 further including a third region,

said third of said regions includes a plurality of consecutive  $\alpha$ -nucleosides linked by charged 3'-5' phosphorous linkages, or a plurality of consecutive 4'-thionucleosides linked by charged 3'-5' phosphorous linkages; and

said second of said regions positioned in said sequence of linked nucleosides is between said first and said third regions.

70. (new) The compound of claim 44 wherein said first region comprises a plurality of consecutive  $\alpha$ -nucleosides linked by charged 3'-5' phosphorous linkages.

71. (new) The compound of claim 70 further including a third region,  
said third of said regions includes a plurality of consecutive  $\alpha$ -nucleosides linked by  
charged 3'-5' phosphorous linkages; and  
said second of said regions positioned in said sequence of linked nucleosides is  
between said first and said third regions.
72. (new) The compound of claim 44 wherein said first region comprises a plurality of  
consecutive 4'-thionucleosides linked by charged 3'-5' phosphorous linkages.
73. (new) The compound of claim 72 further including a third region,  
said third of said regions includes a plurality of consecutive 4'-thionucleosides linked  
by charged 3'-5' phosphorous linkages; and  
said second of said regions positioned in said sequence of linked nucleosides is  
between said first and said third regions.